

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY Poland
SUBJECT 1. Train Accident at Rzepin
2. Partisan Activity

REPORT

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1. A serious accident occurred near Rzepin (Reppen) on 31 December 1952 which involved the Soviet Blue leave train. Express D 3 from Warsaw to Frankfurt/Oder arrived late in the vicinity of Rzepin and ran into the rear coach of train Dbl, the Soviet Blue leave train, which was travelling at the time in the direction of Frankfurt/Oder. The coach was telescoped and as a result 30 Soviet military personnel returning from leave were killed outright and 200 were injured. There were a number of very seriously injured passengers on both trains. [redacted] the train was derailed as a result of unscrewing of rails, and [redacted] numerous arrests were made among the railway personnel, especially engineers and other personnel who work on the line. The ensuing arrests and purge led to the suicide of two engineers from the Warsaw locomotive sheds. Rumors are current among the railway personnel that the train derailment was an answer of the underground movement to recent arrests of WIH (Freedom and Independence) leaders.
2. On 6 January 1953, a freight train was derailed near Jelenia Gora (Hirschberg), completely blocking the Poznan-Jelenia Gora line for 12 hours. No further details are known. It is rumored [redacted] that the derailed train was carrying Soviet military equipment and that the accident was caused by the unscrewing of one rail.
3. At the beginning of December 1952, unidentified persons cut all the telephone cables leading to the Wolstyn Post Exchange. The perpetrators were not found. The personnel of the Wolstyn telephone exchange were forbidden to discuss the incident.
4. There was strong partisan activity in the vicinity of Warsaw on 31 December 1952 and 1 January 1953. Trains in both directions were fired on with small arms.

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